

Editor's Notes for *Por tus caídas pedimos* (*Coplas al Señor de las Tres Caídas*)

Here is my transcription of the second of three manuscript *Coplas* by Hilarión Eslava written for the Hermandad de las Tres Caídas de San Isidoro (or formally, the Antigua e Ilustre Hermandad del Santísimo Sacramento, María Santísima de las Nieves y Ánimas Benditas del Purgatorio y Pontificia y Real Archicofradía de Nazarenos de Nuestro Padre Jesús de las Tres Caídas, Nuestra Señora de Loreto y Señor San Isidoro) in Sevilla. An earlier transcription of another set of *Coplas* from the same source, "*Con abundoso llanto*" (CPE-442) can be found on this online page.

The source material for this specific piece, which the Hermandad de San isidoro has generously shared and authorized for its use on this project, consisted of several manuscript pages of *particellas* for various instruments and voices. The cover page sets the date of this work in 1851, after Eslava was established in Madrid as Master of the Royal Chapel. The text is a devotional setting of the Crucifixion, describing sorrow and lamentation at Christ's suffering, as He is led to His death. Its author is unknown.

As an interesting curiosity, one of the *particellas* was labeled as pertaining to a "*buccem*" (*sic*), an instrument I had never encountered before in Eslava's works. I believe this may actually be a "*buccin*" (sometimes also spelled out in Spanish as "*bucsen*"), a now-forgotten precursor of the trombone. Used mainly in military bands during the first half of the 19th century, this curious coiled brass instrument featured a slide and a prominent bell in the shape of a serpent's head, including a tongue that vibrated as the instrument was played – a striking and rather amusing visual effect. You can find this oddity described on <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buccin> and a YouTube video of it being played at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UickfyNVE7c>. Today, and for these *Coplas*, the trombone makes a perfectly suitable substitute. The piece also calls for E-flat horns and A-flat cornets, which may be difficult to come by as well, so I have included alternative *particellas* for Horns in F and B-flat cornets in the pdf of the full score and parts.

The structure of the piece is the traditional alternating *copla* and *estribillo* (refrain), with the *copla* written as a soprano duet. Being a busy man whose work was in high demand, Eslava sometimes adapted a few of his favorite melodies to different sets of lyrics. While it is the first time I have encountered the melody for this *estribillo*, in this piece the melody for the *copla* is quite familiar; it can be heard in Eslava's *Septenario a Nuestra Señora de los Dolores* (CPE-534) and in the *Letrillas para las Tres Horas del Viernes Santo* (CPE-566), both of which I have previously transcribed. What is different and interesting in this particular setting is the orchestration, which is considerably more nuanced than the keyboard accompaniments provided in my earlier transcriptions. Therefore, I decided to create a new keyboard reduction for this piece, drawing on more of the instrumental parts.

The original Spanish lyrics and an approximate English translation follow.

Spanish Lyrics	English Translation
<p>ESTRIBILLO:</p> <p>Por tus caídas pedimos y dolorosa Pasión, la gracia que consigamos de nuestras culpas perdón.</p> <p>COPLAS:</p> <p>1. Del Calvario al sacrificio el nuevo Isaac ya camina y ante la muerte se inclina, víctima de expiación.</p> <p>No le es pesada la cruz, ni le entristece la muerte, es del pecador la suerte, ingrato y sin compasión.</p> <p>2. Tres veces caído en tierra feroz el pueblo le mira y en vez de lástima, ira rebosa su corazón.</p> <p>Así el hombre despreciando de su Dios el beneficio, mira su horrible suplicio ingrato y sin compasión.</p> <p>3. Tu cruz, Señor, tu corona, tus azotes, tu pasión, nuestra sentencia borraron de eterna reprobación.</p> <p>Por eso en llanto deshecho en vos espero y confío, no nos llaméis Jesús mío ingrato y sin compasión.</p>	<p>CHORUS:</p> <p>For Thy falls and painful Passion, we beg for grace, that from our faults we are granted forgiveness.</p> <p>VERSES:</p> <p>1. From Calvary to the sacrifice the new Isaac already walks and before death he bows, an offering of atonement.</p> <p>The cross is not heavy for Him, nor does death sadden Him, the sinner's fate is to be ungrateful and without compassion.</p> <p>2. Three times fallen on the unforgiving earth, the people stare at Him, and instead of pity, anger overflows in their hearts.</p> <p>Man thus despising God's gift, looks upon His horrible torture, ungrateful and without compassion.</p> <p>3. Thy cross, O Lord, Thy crown, Thy scourging, Thy passion, our sentence of eternal guilt erased.</p> <p>Therefore, weeping inconsolably, I hope and trust in Thee; do not call us, my Jesus, ungrateful and without compassion.</p>

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